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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 5  
By Henry

A RESOLUTION relative to federal standards establishing  
performance and marking requirements for tires  
for use on commercial motor vehicles.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee road system consists of 85,037 miles; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks sixth in the nation and first in the Southeast in ton miles  
carried by highways; and

WHEREAS, there are 14,607 registered motor carriers in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Safety weighs in excess of nine million trucks annually at  
six sites; and

WHEREAS, there was a total overall five-year increase of 33.5% between 1993-1994 to  
1999 in vehicle miles traveled by medium and large trucks in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 medium and large trucks in Tennessee traveled six trillion, five  
hundred twenty-two billion (6,522,000,000,000) miles on Tennessee roadways; and

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WHEREAS, United States Code, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 571, establishes the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for new pneumatic tires for vehicles other than passenger vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, Section 393.75 prohibits trucks or truck-tractors from operating with regrooved tires on the front wheels which have a load-carrying capacity equal to or greater than that of 8.25-20 8-ply rating tires; and

WHEREAS, the tires that are used on some trucks and truck-tractors may, in fact, be recapped tires; and

WHEREAS, it has become a very noticeable hazard on Tennessee's highways and interstate system that truck tires are splitting away from their rims, thereby presenting a safety hazard to Tennesseans and other motorists; and

WHEREAS, many fatalities have occurred due to the separation of tires used on sport utility vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Rodney Slater, U.S. Department of Transportation, has established as a goal of reducing truck-related fatal crashes by 50% over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration develops safety standards for all equipment on commercial vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's testing and standards have not changed since the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, trucks and truck-tractors operate over extended periods of time under loaded conditions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the General Assembly hereby urges the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to review and strengthen the standards that have been established relative to the

construction and testing of tires utilized by commercial motor vehicles, with a view toward reducing the number of such tires which split away from their rims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urges the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to review its motor carrier safety regulations and explore the feasibility of prohibiting the use of recapped tires on commercial motor vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Body most fervently urges and encourages Tennessee's Congressional delegation, both individually and collectively, to work in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Motor Carrier Safety Administration to realize the goals and precepts delineated in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Motor Carrier Safety Administration.